

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Applicant: William G. Noles

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/766,754

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1. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for treating floor covering, comprising:
 - (a) an energy source adapted to transfer heat to the textile face of the floorcovering in an amount sufficient to melt a portion of the textile face and thereby alter the appearance of the textile face of the floorcovering, and
 - (b) structure for supporting the energy source and contacting the textile face of the floor covering while moving the energy source and floor covering relative to each other in a predetermined relationship during treatment of the textile face of the floor covering with the energy source.

 2. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for use during installation of floor covering for treating a portion of a textile face of the floor covering proximate an edge of the floor covering to change the appearance of the treated portion of the textile face of the floor covering, the apparatus comprising:
 - (a) a heat source adapted to transfer heat to the textile face of the floorcovering in an amount sufficient to melt a portion of the textile face and thereby alter the appearance of the textile face of the floorcovering,
 - (b) structure on which the heat source is mounted for maintaining a desired relationship between the heat source and the floor covering during treatment of the textile face of the floor covering.
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10. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for treating a portion of a textile face of floor covering proximate an edge of the floor covering to change the appearance of the treated portion of the textile face of the floor covering by heating, the apparatus comprising:

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- (a) a base,
 - (b) a plurality of rollers attached to the base for contact with the textile face of the floor covering during use of the apparatus,
 - (c) two guide arms projecting from the base, each by a projection amount, and two guide bearings for contact with an edge of the floor covering during use of the apparatus, one of which guide bearings is attached to each guide arm, and
 - (d) a hot air gun adapted to transfer heat to the treated portion of the textile face in an amount sufficient to melt the treated portion of the textile face and thereby alter the appearance of the treated portion of the textile face, wherein the hot air gun is attached to a hot air gun mount adjustably attached to the base so that the distance of the hot air gun from the textile face of the floor covering during use of the apparatus may be adjusted.

16. (Twice Amended) A method for changing the appearance of a portion of a textile face of floor covering during installation of the floor covering, comprising:

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- (a) positioning a hot air gun adapted to transfer heat to the textile face of the floorcovering in an amount sufficient to melt a portion of the textile face and thereby alter the appearance of the textile face of the floorcovering, wherein the hot air gun is mounted on a carriage proximate an edge of the floor covering,

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(b) with the hot air gun on, moving the hot air gun across the textile face of the floor covering along the edge to heat the portion of the textile face of the floor covering adjacent to the edge to change the appearance of the portion while maintaining contact between first reference structure of the carriage and the textile face of the floor covering and between second reference structure of the carriage and the edge of the floor covering.

19. (Twice Amended) A method of installing floor covering modules having textile faces and having a "grouted edge" appearance on a floor, comprising:

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(a) installing on the floor modules that can be positioned thereon without cutting the modules,

(b) cutting at least one module in the field to a size necessary to fill a position on the floor not covered by the un-cut modules and thereby complete covering of the floor after installation of the un-cut modules, and

(c) positioning a hot air gun adapted to transfer heat to the textile face of the floorcovering in an amount sufficient to melt a portion of the textile face and thereby alter the appearance of the textile face of the floorcovering, wherein the hot air gun is mounted on a carriage proximate an edge of at least one module where a "grouted edge" appearance is desired, and, with the hot air gun on, moving the hot air gun across a portion of the textile face adjacent the edge of the at least one module to heat the portion of the textile face of the at least one module adjacent to the edge and to change the appearance of the portion while maintaining contact between first reference structure of the carriage and the textile face of the at least one